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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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NO NATIONS, NO BORDERS, NO DEPORTATIONS!

Workers marching by Central Park past Trump Tower against his fascist deportation plan, holding a sign in spanish that says stop racial hate say no to anti-immigrant laws and deportations. To stop Trump's plan we need to build a movement for communism, so we can build a world without nations, borders, and racism.

NEW YORK CITY, November 9 - Today thousands of working class immigrants, women, men and children, largely Latin, marched boldly against racist attacks and mass deportations. In the wake of U.S. workers-won to extreme racism-choosing the small fascist Donald Trump (see glossary on page 6) for another presidential term, the fight for communism will need these antiracist warriors to lead the way!

Defending our class from fascist attacks

A well organized march led by Make the Road and various immigrant groups, in coalition with sizable groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, chanted, "We're here to stay! Listen up, we're fighting back! From north to south, east to west, we're in this fight, whatever the cost!" Another chant said "No nations, no borders, no deportations!" A comrade said to a young Asian woman with a lively marching son, "We're here for him." "That's why I'm here," said his mom. Another comrade said, "The march gave workers the opportunity to learn how to move forward and a sense of the power of belonging to groups of workers able to fight back." The workers aim to confront the fascist attack on immigrants and Trump's plan to deport millions,

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OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Trump's win exposes failure of liberal Big Fascists

In a lose-lose election for workers, Donald Trump's victory marks the toxic divisions within the U.S. working class and a massive defeat for finance capital, the main wing of the U.S. capitalist ruling class. Trump's "America First" platform to pull back from NATO and the war in Ukraine will undermine the Big Fascists of finance capital as they lurch toward war with their imperialist rivals in China and Russia. For workers, the dark night of capitalism in decay—with no mass communist movement to fight back--

The next four years will expose the limits of liberal democracy, where the brutal reality of capitalist dictatorship is veiled by mythical "rights" and "the rule of law." Regardless of who'd won the election, the worldwide crisis of capitalism would force the U.S. bosses to move faster toward full-blown fascism. A President Kamala Harris would have spelled disaster for the international working class, from Gaza to the U.S.-Mexico border. What Trump's victory reveals is the bosses' ability to win tens of millions of workers to open racism and sexism and to scapegoat immigrants, the most vulnerable sections of our class. It shows just how much struggle lies before us.

In this period of extreme instability, the role of Progressive Labor Party becomes even more crucial. The history of Nazi Germany and fascist Japan tells us that communism is the only way to smash fascism. We can't rely on the bosses' politicians or media or courts to protect us. Only communist revolution can secure an antiracist, anti-sexist society that serves workers' needs.

Trump's win and world war

No matter who's in the White House, the declining U.S. empire is on a collision course toward World War Three. There are flash points everywhere we look: Eastern Europe, the South China Sea, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa. According to CEO Jamie Dimon of the main wing JPMorgan Chase, "World War III has already begun" (Economic Times, 10/29). Though Trump fronts for the Small Fascist, isolationist, more domestically oriented bosses, he won't be able to stem the tide of global instability or the sharpening imperialist competition for maximum profit.

In his first term, through threats and broken treaties, Trump showed disdain for the European Union. He sowed division and dysfunction in NATO and the United Nations, U.S.-dominated institutions that were already fracturing. This time around, Trump's version of "strong man" rule will strengthen the Small Fascists within the EU and intensify "nationalist and anti-immigrant political currents … throughout the continent…The possibility that Europe will splinter, with each nation cutting its own deals with Washington, appears real" (New York Times, 11/8). This could embolden the BRICS alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), already "a powerful counterweight to the West" (New York Times, 11/8). In the view of the Council on Foreign Relations, the main wing's leading think tank, "What the world is witnessing today is akin to what theorists called 'total war' [read: world war], in which combatants draw on vast resources, mobilize their societies, prioritize warfare over all other state activities, attack a broad variety of targets, and reshape their economies and those of other countries" (Foreign Affairs, 10/22).

As capitalism spirals toward world war, the working class will pay in both "blood and treasure." The bosses will force young workers to be their cannon fodder while slashing programs like Social Security and Medicare to pay for bigger militaries. The Council on Foreign Relations has endorsed a proposal to increase U.S. defense spending from 3 percent to more than 5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (Foreign Affairs, 11/8).

Trump's win and splits in the ruling class

All politicians are so many capitalist puppets. They have no principles or morals. While they may pretend to believe in certain ideologies, in reality they sway in the wind to mobilize the working class behind the section of the ruling class they are currently serving.

Over the last decade or so, the Democratic Party has been the face of finance capital, of the multinational oil companies like Exxon Mobil and the big banks that finance them (JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America).With the Trump takeover, the Republican Party has been hijacked by the isolationist bosses in domestic energy and a segment of the tech and finance industries. Come January, this wing will control the White House, both houses of Congress, and the U.S. Supreme Court. While only time will tell how this tension will play out, it's safe to say the main wing will not go down without a fight. However the liberal bosses respond, the role of Progressive Labor Party will be crucial in defeating all the faces of capitalism and winning the world the working class deserves: communism.

Trump's win and the U.S. working class

Finance capital's whirlwind effort to "get out the vote" and defeat Trump was unprecedented. The ruling class spent a billion dollars on campaign staff, concerts, celebrities, and a non stop barrage of commercials. They enlisted ex-generals, traditionally neutral, to speak out against Trump. They rolled out Oprah and Beyonce—all for nought. With votes still being counted, Trump has already surpassed his 2020 popular vote against Joe Biden. He ran stronger in all 50 states and across most demographics—most dramatically among Latin voters, but also Black men, young people, rural and suburban voters. He won half of those who consider themselves "pro-choice" (usnews.com, 11/12). With his war against the "elites" bankrolled by Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, Trump won by putting racism and sexism front and center. His gutter appeals had even more resonance this time around because workers in the U.S. are despairing and infuriated with how the profit system—under mostly Democratic control for the last 16 years--has failed them at every turn. We must not lose sight that millions of workers who voted for Trump did so out of their hatred for the horrors of capitalism, even if they don't yet have the class consciousness to act on it.

While the "Trump wave" might seem overwhelming in the election's immediate aftermath, this wasn't a landslide. His popular vote margin projects to about 1 percent, the tightest presidential election since 2000. While Trump gained about three million votes over his last run, the bigger reason he won is that Harris lost nearly six million voters who backed Biden (usnews.com, 11/12). Overall turnout was down. In significantly Black counties containing Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit, close to two million people who voted in 2020 stayed home (NYT, 11/11). All told, more than one of three registered voters—more than 70 million people—saw no point in turning out. Many of these workers can and must be won to our Party to become the future gravediggers of capitalism.

Call to Action

Our Party must see this election as an urgent call to action, as a clear and present danger but also a tremendous opportunity. As the Democratic Party tries to discipline its ranks and regain its base on the slippery slope to fascism and world war, we must continue to expose the liberal bosses as the greatest danger to our class. We can do that only if we immerse ourselves in reform struggles and help to build a mass movement. Whether the fight is for reproductive rights or against anti-immigrant racist terror, we can share our vision for a communist future only when we stand with workers on the front lines of the fight. The workers of the world have lived in a dark night since the Soviet Union and China slid back to capitalism. But the dark night shall have its end—if we commit to building a mass communist alternative. Fight for communism! Join PLP

Communist leadership

APHA, you can't hide, stand against genocide!

MINNEAPOLIS—Progressive Labor Party has spent decades fighting racist ideas in health and raising class consciousness within the American Public Health Association (APHA). This year was no different. PLP members with members of the Palestine Health Justice Working Group (PHJWG/a committee within APHA) worked on policy statements about the apartheid, occupation, and genocide in Gaza. We posted comments about the need to fight racism and imperialism. We submitted abstracts and gave presentations at the conference.

The APHA is a 25,000-member organization of public health professionals. There is an annual conference attended by at least 10,000 members every year and this year it was in Minneapolis. Last year at the same conference, the APHA became the first and one of only a few professional organizations to pass a statement about a ceasefire in Gaza, return of the hostages, and allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza. This statement passed because 120, mostly young, public health workers attended the APHA Governing Council debate where the issue was voted on (See CHALLENGE, 12/13/23). Ninety percent of the Governing Council voted in favor of the statement, which allowed it to remain the official position of the APHA for one year.

Lenin once wrote that imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism. Capitalism is a sick system built and maintained on occupation, apartheid, and genocide.. To build a healthy world for workers fight for communism.

Our experience shows how important it is to have a fighting Party like PLP in the organizing of young workers to confront the APHA leadership. At this year's annual conference there was a walkout and demonstration on the opening day that PLP and other APHA members organized. There was also a march within the exhibit hall on the third day of the conference led by a young PL comrade and a militant Palestinian worker from the PHJWP. We also distributed 900 "APHA CHALLENGEs" to conference and rally goers–a beautiful four-page leaflet with our analysis and contact information.

Liberals welcome fascist repression within APHA

This year, another draft of the statement on Gaza was due so that the Association would be able to debate and adopt it as a permanent policy. Despite the authors (one of whom is in PLP) following all the rules for policy statements, the APHA Executive Board decided to prohibit discussion of the ongoing genocide in Gaza at this year's meeting. The authors submitted a second statement about the genocide and the Israeli attacks on Lebanon as a late-breaker policy statement and this was also not allowed for debate by the membership.

Throughout the year, APHA leadership also opened multiple investigations for "code of conduct" violations into members who are against the racist genocide and said so on public platforms or responded professionally to Zionist trolls in the organization. The APHA leadership's intimidation tactics involved never telling the accused what the supposed violation was, and not allowing any transparency when they decided to punish members for "unprofessional" actions. Both the refusal to allow discussion of a racist genocide and the weaponizing of the code of conduct process, show the fascist face of the liberals who run the APHA.

It's crucial that we are clear about the fact that liberals are the main danger because they oversee the most ruthless empire in recent history. A few people we were organizing with thought that the leadership personally agreed with us but were caught in the middle, or were constrained by the rules, or some other pitiful excuse to be on the wrong side. This is a serious underestimation of our enemies and we need to be clear about that–APHA has ties to large healthcare corporations, the Democratic party, and the U.S. military. On the positive side, there were many whom we were organizing

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NYC Immigration

Defend our class from fascist attacks

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build concentration camps while scapegoating immigrants. Much work needs to be done to protect immigrants, unite the working class and "Stand up, fight back," as the chant goes. Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) distributed hundreds of CHALLENGE newspapers to friendly marchers and observers. Comrades have been very active in Make the Road for decades and have been building with antiracist workers, many of them migrants, with the goal of winning them to see the limits of fighting for reforms and bringing them closer to the fight for communism.

As comrades in PLP immerse ourselves in these organizations we have opportunities to lead, fight for our communist ideas and build PLP. The antifascist movement must include all migrant workers, particularly Black migrants. For example, the fight against racist attacks on Haitian migrant workers must be a big part of the struggle. It was mentioned at the march, but not emphasized. Also the genocide, slaughter and displacement of Palestinian workers in Gaza and the West Bank must be at the core of our organizing since organizers made no mention of this connection. Comrades in working class organizations like unions and student groups as well as soldiers are key to the fight. Our class needs internationalism, not nationalism.

PLP flag waving behind dozens of workers. Let's raise our voices and fists to smash this racist system once and for all.

What is to be done?

PL'ers must lead, build mass bases and rely on the working class on the road to communist revolution. In the 1930s and 1940s communists defeated the fascists in spite of their terrible line of uniting with "lesser evil" imperialists, one error that led to the collapse of the international communist movement. PLP has a long struggle to rebuild an international, communist movement that fights to understand and correct errors and advances of the past movement. We have to persevere. Remembering the gut wrenching separation of children from their families from the U.S. to Gaza and Africa, it's our fight now in the U.S. to never see children left alone when their families have been sent to concentration camps and jails awaiting deportation. It is an outrage to see the capitalists and imperialists purposefully kill the children of the working class around the globe. We in PLP with a growing base must make communism take root and grow. There is no other solution!

MLA Radical Caucus

Reject complicity with genocide

September 28 - The Radical Caucus of the Modern Languages Association (MLA) held an online conference, "Keywords: Complicity," to examine how U.S. university administrations are now in full complicity with the Israeli-U.S. war machine, repressing pro-Palestinian campus protests. But it is not just now. Universities have always done the bidding of U.S. imperialism. They do war research, they host ROTC military officer training programs and they promote the so-called wonders of U.S. foreign policy. This is no accident as their Boards of Trustees are controlled by rich capitalists and powerful politicians. These ruling class controlled universities are systematically attacking radical faculty on a scale not seen since the anti-communist purges of the Cold War McCarthyism of the 1950s.

The conference started with the image of a tent in Gaza, with the words, "Thank You Columbia Students," painted on the side, an image of international solidarity honoring the student protests. As more and more wars involving the world's imperialist powers lead ever closer to world war, this kind of international solidarity is an important step in getting rid of capitalism once and for all with working class power. That's communism.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have been organizers in the Radical Caucus for many years and new members have joined PLP through this work. Many organizers joined the Caucus at the January MLA convention, where we successfully passed an anti-Zionist resolution. With another group, we are bringing a resolution on BDS (the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign) at the next MLA convention in January.

Campus bosses back genocide

University bosses became accomplices in Israeli/U.S. genocide by attacking anti-war protests. Pro-Zionist organizations like the Academic Engagement Network (academicengagement.org) are often leading the national repression with plans that include new codes of conduct based on regulating the "time, place and manner" of campus protests. Federal, state, and local politicians push campus administrators to punish protesters with the lie that anti-Zionism equals antisemitism. Administrators are also under pressure from big donors and boards of trustees.

The rulers are demanding that their universities fall in line behind the imperialist genocide, while students and faculty are waging class war against capitalist control of our teaching, learning and action. As protests have grown university administrations have responded with more repression. Their liberal mask is slipping off, revealing the fascism needed to silence protest and wage wider wars.

Worker-Student Alliance Is key

The first speaker, a historian, showed how McCarthyism set a precedent for the current attacks on pro-Palestinian protest, and told how at Yeshiva University this year the dean put pressure on the entire faculty to sign on to the Academic Engagement Network statement against BDS. Protesters have dubbed California State University "Boeing University" because of its severe repression and close ties to the warmaker aerospace corporation. The speaker told of their efforts to link up students and faculty with union workers in the Labor for Palestine coalition. The next panelist said that Indiana University was punishing faculty, including himself, so that the Board of Trustees could turn out "workers, not thinkers."

A colleague from New York University described his campus as a national leader in repression, with 150 student arrests, tighter campus "security" and working with the Academic Engagement Network. At the University of Michigan a "farcical" policy banned poster images, the word "Palestine," and even the name of the panelist on flyers announcing her lecture!

No war but class war!

A National Day of Action is planned on April 17, with 100 campuses already organizing for it, and everyone will join the Caucus push for a BDS resolution at the next MLA convention. A prominent Marxist scholar called for a worker-student alliance to take on the campus repressive apparatus.

The universities pose as havens of free expression and higher learning. Actually they are part of U.S. capitalism with a higher dose of brainwashing. As the imperialist powers (U.S., China, Russia) head closer to world war, the universities cast aside their "neutrality" and become more open agents of U.S. imperialism. PLP fights for the working class to take power from the bosses with communist revolution. In all our work, we must raise that goal and build the Party. No war but class war!

APHA

Fight liberal fascists' censorship

Continued from page 3

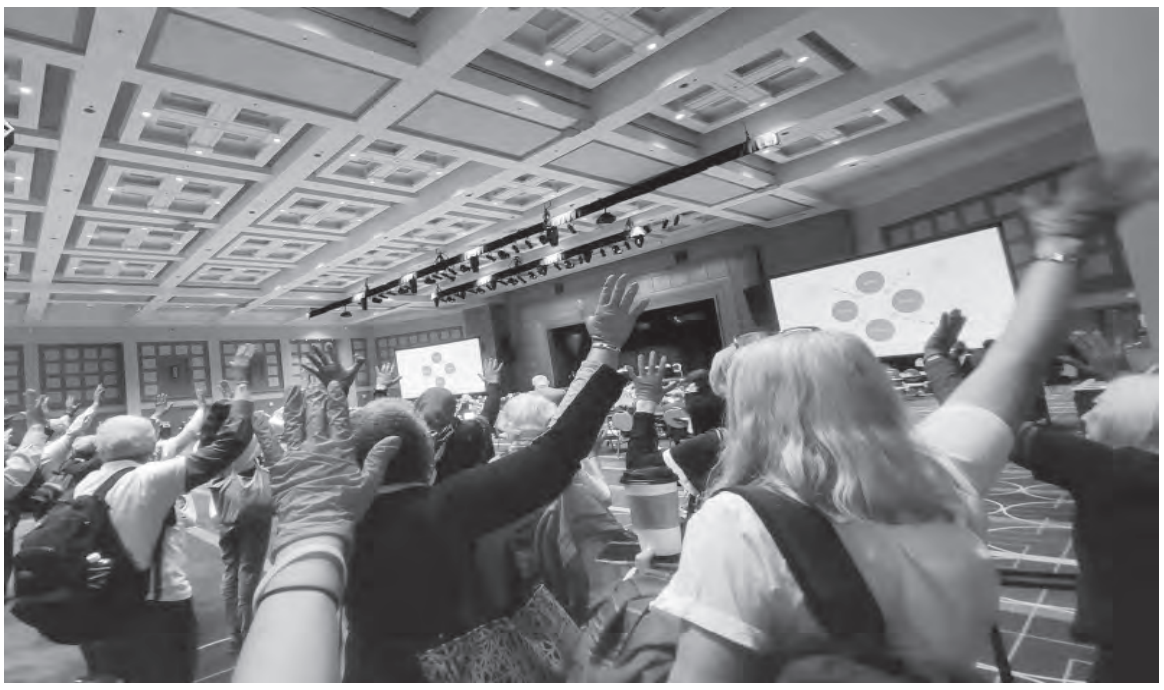
and sharing ideas with who completely agreed that the liberal misleadership of APHA was not to be trusted and that we had to challenge them.

Antiracist actions met with enthusiasm by workers

The walkout and rally on the first day of the conference that was organized by PLP, Healthcare Workers for Palestine—Twin Cities (HCWP-TC), and the PHJWG was a wonderful success. There were 120 workers from the conference and the city who came to the demonstration just outside the convention center. Speakers denounced the repression and censorship of APHA, the links between racist state violence here and in Palestine/Israel, and the importance of fighting back against fascist mask bans aimed at protestors and that put all workers (but especially immunocompromised ones) at risk of illness.

A PLP speaker gave one of the closing speeches that persuasively described how U.S. support for Israel was over control of the Middle East trade routes and oil reserves. Naming and explaining the inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and Chinese ruling classes with facts, stats and clarity had many in attendance nodding in agreement. And later conversations with our base showed that they agreed with that analysis. The collaboration with the HCWP-TC group was also exciting to see: the working class showing up for each other. The HCWP-TC comrades scouted locations around the conference center, recruited speakers and attended multiple planning meetings. They provided the sound system and a great banner, and helped publicize on social media. Their work against the genocide in Gaza locally for the past year meant that they were ready and experienced in helping plan actions. This demonstration would not have been nearly as good without their collaboration.

The PHJWG pushed to get APHA members to the Governing Council to watch whether they voted to discuss a short statement about the genocide in Gaza. When that motion was not allowed by the APHA Governing Council, we led an initially silent protest in the gallery of spectators by holding up hands with red gloves on them symbolizing the blood of Palestinian workers. When that protest became more vocal, the gallery was cleared and we led a march of over 35 workers through the exhibit hall chanting: "APHA you can't hide, Stand against Genocide!" With signs from the earlier rally, this group marched through the exhibit hall and the lunch area.



Workers protest wearing red painted surgical gloves symbolizing the bloody hands of the U.S. and Israeli rulers and their accomplices in APHA who defend genocide of workers in Palestine.

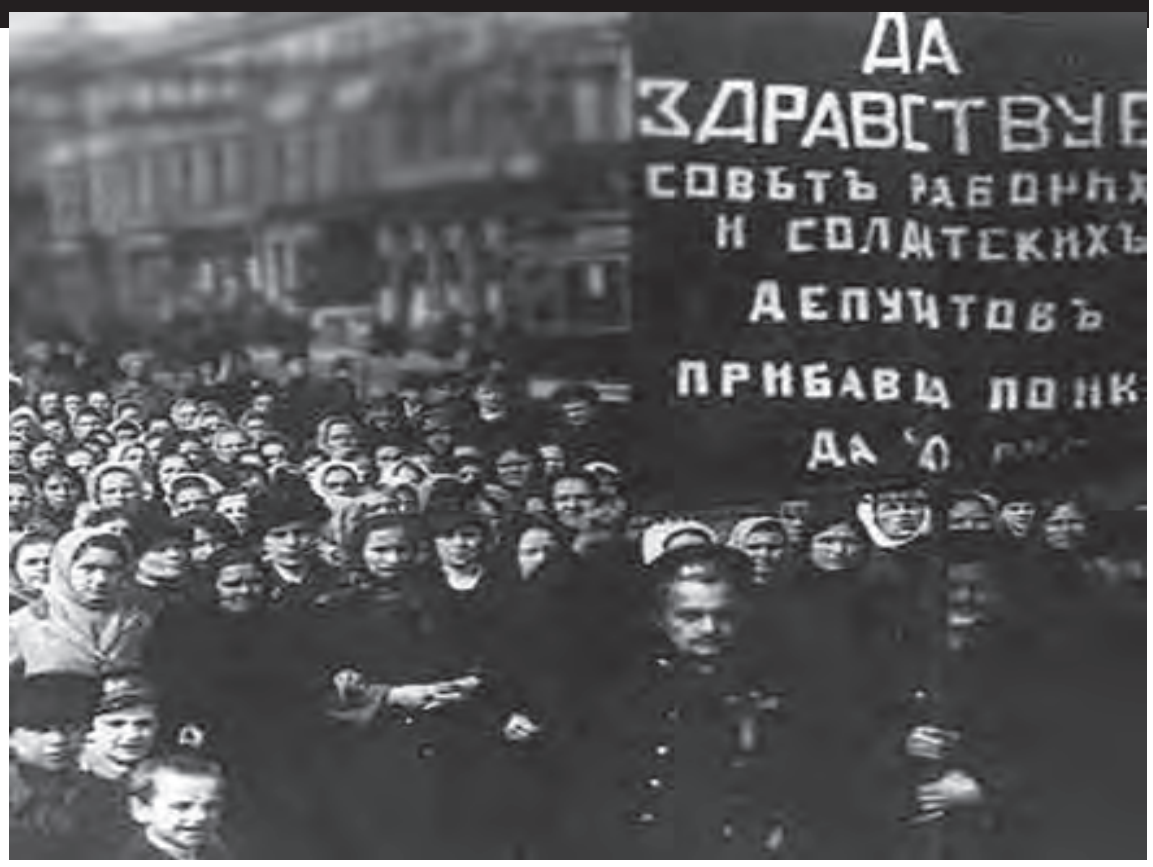
People left their booths to clap and cheer, and a dozen joined the march. A PLP member who has been attending APHA for 40 years and has done multiple marches over the years in the exhibit hall said it was the best reception from those watching that they had ever seen.

Another notable event at the conference happened when a young Black public health student and friend of ours ditched his speech on asthma and instead decided to spend his allotted time giving a short talk about Gaza and then scrolling a list of the Palestinian workers who have been murdered since last October. After about three minutes of this, he was told to stop and members of the audience protested in support of his action. He walked out of the session with ten other attendees following him. The conversation about how to organize within public health continued outside.

The bold and brave actions of public health workers at the conference this year shows that workers are disgusted by the racist genocide of Palestinian workers and children and the unending material support for it from the U.S. ruling class. We left the conference with many new contacts and a renewed confidence in communist leadership to oppose racism and imperialism in every setting.

Remember the Bolshevik Revolution

The following is a reprint of an article published in 2017 when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. It is one article of an extensive series about the Bolshevik Revolution and the triumphs, as well as the defeats, of the world communist movement of the 20th century. The following illustrates the Bolsheviks' armed uprising in Petrograd on October 27 / November 7, 1917. It is often called "the Russian Revolution." In fact, uprisings took place in a great many cities and towns.



The revolutionary masses rise up! The banner reads "Long live the council of workers, soliders, and deputies. History shows that workers can take power if we build a revolutionary communist movement with worker-student-solider unity.

In 1917, ordinary people took their lives into their own hands and remade their world. It was the most important event of the 20th century; for the first time in world history, workers seized state power and pioneered a worker-run society. The workers, organized in committees and councils, took over the means of production.

This event shook and influenced the whole world. The Soviet Union was an international beacon of hope for workers' fighting to destroy the capitalists in their parts of the world.

More than 100 years later, the capitalists of the world are still haunted by what our class was able to accomplish. And so, they slander the achievements of our communist predecessors every chance they get, in every media outlet they own. Progressive Labor Party reflects on the mass heroism of our class on this centennial celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The Uprising

After the overthrow of the monarchy, the Bolsheviks and workers formed the Soviets (meaning "worker councils") of Workers' Deputies (Moscow Bolsheviks) and of Soldiers' Deputies. As in Petrograd, there was sympathy for the moderate socialist parties. But by September 24, the Bolsheviks received an absolute majority of seats in district dumas (359 seats out of 710).

On the night of October 24 to October 25, the Bolshevik uprising began in Petrograd. The Moscow Bolsheviks learned about it at noon on October 25 (November 7 on today's international standard calendar). That same day, the Party Combat Center was set up to lead the insurrection. That afternoon, the Combat Center began fighting.

Parts of the Moscow troops were on alert and ready to execute only orders issued by the Military Revolutionary Committee (MRC). The MRC were powerful directing bodies of revolt, installing and securing Soviet power. They stopped the publication of bourgeois newspapers and declared a general strike. Regional MRCs were created, military units that took the side of the Bolsheviks and their allies were put on alert. A provisional revolutionary committee was elected, since the executive committee of the Moscow Soldiers' Soviet was in the hands of the Bolsheviks' opponents.

Ten to twelve thousand workers, Red Guards, took to arms. District MRCs sent emissaries to factories and military units. On October 26, the Moscow MRC ordered all units of the Moscow garrison to combat readiness.

However, in Moscow there were perhaps as many as 20,000 Junkers (junior officers), all strongly anti-Bolshevik. The City Duma, headed by the right-wing socialist party, turned into a political center of resistance to the Bolsheviks. It relied mainly on cops and Junkers.

The chief of the Kremlin Arsenal agreed to give weapons to workers. But the Kremlin was blocked by detachments of Junkers. The commander of the Moscow Military District, Ryabtsev, requested loyal front troops while simultaneously entering into negotiations with the MRC.

On October 27, about 300 officers, cadets, and students loyal to the Provisional Government gathered at Moscow University and the Kremlin. The volunteer squad of students was called the "white guards," the first time this term was used.

At 6 PM, colonel Ryabtsev and the Duma's anti-revolutionary "Committee of Public Safety" (CPS) learned that troops were being sent from the front. Colonel Ryabtsev declared martial law and ordered the MRC to surrender. They refused. The same day Junkers attacked a detachment of revolutionary soldiers who were trying to break through to the Moscow City Council. Forty-five of the 150 people in the battle were killed or wounded.

Junkers Take the Kremlin

On the morning of October 28, colonel Ryabtsev demanded that the Bolsheviks surrender the Kremlin, claiming that the city was under his control. Not knowing the actual situation, Bolshevik leader Berzin did so. Then two companies of Junkers entered. Surviving soldiers later said that, after the prisoners handed over their weapons, they were shot. The counter-revolutionary forces bayonetted those who tried to flee.

The soldiers fought back. Six cadets and about 200 revolutionary soldiers were killed. Supporters of the CPS gained access to weapons from the Kremlin's Central Arsenal.

At the call of the Bolshevik Party, the MRC, and city trade unions, a general political strike began. A meeting of soldier committees asked all the military units to support the MRC. By day's end, the revolutionary forces blocked the city center. From October 28 to October 31, revolutionary soldiers seized the Bryansk railway station and provision warehouses, and stormed the headquarters of the Moscow Military District.

The morning of October 29 (November 11), the red soldiers dug trenches in the streets, built barricades and a stubborn struggle for the center of Moscow began. The Red forces launched an offensive, seizing the city hall. By 9 PM, the revolutionary troops occupied the telephone exchange and began shelling areas occupied by anti-Bolshevik forces, including the Kremlin. A truce was attempted but failed to hold. Anti-Bolshevik forces began to surrender to the forces of the revolutionary MRC.

On October 31 the MRC demanded unconditional surrender from the CPS. The Junkers, along with members of the counter-revolutionary CPS, were forced to move to the Kremlin and the Historical Museum.

On November 2 the shelling of the Kremlin by the Bolsheviks intensified and they occupied the Historical Museum. That night the Junkers left the Kremlin and agreed to disarm. A delegation of the CPS went to the MRC for negotiations. The MRC agreed to free all Junkers, officers and students provided they surrender their weapons.

On November 2, at 5 PM, the counterrevolutionary forces signed a surrender agreement. The MRC ordered a cease-fire, although in some areas the Junkers continued to resist and even attempted an offensive.

Finally, on November 3, the cadets, officers and students left the Kremlin and the building of the Alexander College. Many of them later joined the anti-Bolshevik Volunteer, or "White," Army. Throughout Moscow, the Junkers were disarmed. A detachment of the Red Guard under the command of Comrade Petrov freed arrested revolutionary soldiers of the 56th regiment, led by the former commandant of the Kremlin's arsenal, Comrade Berzin. The released prisoners were tortured and hungry. They had been kept without food for five days. Some were sick after all they had experienced as prisoners of the "Whites." The liberated soldiers immediately grabbed the rifles abandoned by the Junkers and rushed at the colonel who had shot their comrades in the Kremlin, and at the Junkers holding grenades, and shot them on the spot.

On November 3, the manifesto of the MRC proclaimed the power of the Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. During the uprising, the revolutionary forces suffered between several hundred and 1,000 killed and wounded.

Other Lessons

1. The Mensheviks entered the MRC from a desire "to mitigate the consequences of the insane adventure of the Bolsheviks." Their participation made the actions of this body less decisive.

2. If the Bolsheviks had not had a very strong and numerous base among the workers and soldiers of Moscow, they could never have beaten the highly motivated military cadets, Junkers, officers, and the regular army soldiers they commanded.

The insurrection in Moscow was a series of hard-fought, bloody battles that took place over a whole week. The armed insurrection in Moscow proves that the Bolsheviks' support among the workers, peasants, and soldiers, was broad and deep. The Bolsheviks had a strong base, won by years of hard, dedicated work, most of it under difficult, underground conditions.

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Migrant workers and all deserve the best: communism

I attended a rally this past in defense of migrants against Trump's racist deportations plan. Though we were small we were a mighty group of multiracial PL'ers. In addition to handing out hundredsCHALLENGES we distributed a leaflet we made explaining our politics as well as the flyers we've been using to solicit donations for a mutual aid effort I've been leading in my community at a local migrant shelter with the help of our PLP club. We handed out all the copies we had. Self critically we could have printed out more but we didn't anticipate such a huge turnout. We figured threats by emboldened Trump supporters would would scare workers, but I was happy that this was not the case. Workers bravely took to the streets and many people were enthusiastic about our mutual aid work, and were interested in joining our efforts.

The DSA members joined the march and had many signs reading. Socialism is better than Fascism. I asked one of them, 'You know what's better than socialism?' No, what? 'Communism.' Not surprisingly the response was, 'You are kidding.'

These DSA are yearning to achieve capitalism with wool mittens by voting. They are not seeking a revolutionary alternative - and those who are have not made the historical analysis that socialism reverts to capitalism. On a more positive note a worker for NY state health care said that the teachers' union's rejection of MediCareAdvantage benefitted all workers' struggles for decent, affordable health care. He gladly took the CHALLENGE and thanked PLP for challenging the 'Unity' caucus leadership role in the UFT.

Overall it was a spirited and militant march and we learned valuable political lessons. The first is to have confidence in the working class and working class bravery is a shining beacon that will lead the way. Let's focus our efforts on building the world we really want to pass on to future generations. Fight for communism!

CHALLENGE in the streets on election day

On election day, four comrades and I organized a CHALLENGE sale by a polling station in a mainly Black Caribbean neighborhood. Here's how it went.

Nearby, a street vendor sold t-shirts and hats. She had equal amounts of merch of both the klansman Donald Trump and the genocider Kamala Harris. The woman worker lamented that she didn't print enough Trump merch, for those sold out while many Harris shirts stayed unsold.

I used the backpage of CHALLENGE as a poster. The headline read, "Voting, the Big Con." To draw attention, I called out generic slogans like, "Trump and Harris are no friends of the working class!" and "We can't vote our way to liberation—we need communism!"

This drew some attention. A Black woman took CHALLENGE, and she bemoaned the price of groceries and high inflation. "It's especially because of these illegal immigrants."

"I was an illegal immigrant…"

"Oh, well…not you," she backpedaled. The conversation continued about jobs and the economy. She felt the ever-growing pressure of a system in crisis, and essentially chose a "me first" mindset, which pitted one section of the working class against another. The anti-immigrant racism that people feel compelled to conform to is a reflection of how badly the Democratic Party has failed the working class (see editorial on page 2).

Class consciousness appears low, but because I know it was not always this way, I can trust that it will not always be this way. The period we are in requires patience with the people around us, but it also requires a sense of urgency and boldness. Self-critically, the five of us had a bullhorn, yet only one spoke. We distributed nearly 100 papers, half of what was anticipated.

Next time, I will come prepared with some points to make on the mic. Canvassing the streets is uncomfortable, but the only way to get better is to do it.

These next four years will provide us with many chances to respond to attacks with urgency. Let's stay ready!

Deport Trump, welcome international solidarity

On November 9th at Noon, workers gathered to protest Trump, and his plans to deport millions of migrants once in office. Trumpsters were said to gather as a counter protest. PL'ers said not without us! Nearly a dozen PL'ers joined the hundreds to show no fear, and to fight back against the racist ideology Trump and his cronies represent.

Together we were loud and high spirited. With loud drums marching down 59th Street and Park Ave while chanting ,"No Trump, no kkk, no fascist usa!" We distributed nearly 100 issues of CHALLENGE and engaging In interesting conversations. One conversation with a worker watching the march said, "He remembers communism in the Soviet Union but I told him communism was never achieved and it was socialism that reverted the Soviet Union back to a capitalist state. He then said, "I can't wait until you achieve communism with everything they accomplished". I feel like that was a form of sarcasm, which is the problem with doing a march in an upper class area like Columbus circle. Which is dominated by the rich and a tourist area.

However, it was great to shut down traffic on behalf of fighting racism.

Fight racist displacement and anti-migrant nationalism

A comrade and I visited friends from past reform struggles we were involved in, in the predominantly Latin neighborhood of Pilsen. We learned the bosses are sowing division in the housing struggle in Pilsen as a result of a new proposal to expand the Tax Increment Financing program (TIF). TIF is associated with racist displacement. The TIF program collects money in a special fund to spend on so-called "blighted" areas. TIF and the money for the fund has come from the property taxes on home price increases. Those who are for TIF are duped by the bosses' promises. The bosses promote the illusion that TIF would be a transfer from rich to poor, but the capitalist class is the ruling class that dominates the state and they use the TIF fund money for subsidies to Fortune 500 companies and luxury developments. When the capitalist class commands the state, reforms remain their tool.

Many neighbors oppose TIF and are fighting racist displacement, but some are also hostile to the newly arrived migrant workers, mostly from Venezuela who are victims of imperialist displacement. I struggled with them around these contradictions. They brought up the many material hardships they face despite being property owners and operating small businesses. They also pointed out that they have undocumented family members they care for with no assistance from the government. They want to fight with the migrants over a shrinking pile of crumbs. The bosses only deliver these few crumbs because their profit system relies on racist divisions.

It's possible some of the TIF opponents can be won to our line. But we must counter their racist ideas by fighting alongside them in the struggle. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and residents were able to do this when we mobilized a community defense brigade to watch for Trump's promised immigration raids in 2020. Workers were won over to antiracist ideas through this struggle. As communists, we must continue to build class conscious communist fightback at the level of local politics by joining more fightbacks against racist and sexist policing.

Check out these red books!

Several comrades are in a leftist book group, in which we've read and discussed non-fiction books like A People's Guide to Capitalism by Hadas Thier, and What Is Anti-Racism and Why It Means Anti-Capitalism? by Arun Kundnani. We've just begun to readClass War: A Literary History by Mark Steven.

For our first meeting, we were asked to come with two books or plays that had a positive influence on moving us to the left. Eleven of us met today and recommended the titles below. We think that CHALLENGE readers would enjoy these books. Please send in other titles you think are worthwhile.

Howard Fast (Freedom Road, Spartacus, My Glorious Brothers), Jack London (The Iron Heel), Lorraine Hansbery (A Raisin in the Sun), Alice Walker (The Color Purple), Charles Johnson (The Middle Passage), William Pomeroy (The Forest), Thomas Hardy (Jude the Obscure, Tess of the d'Urbervilles), Truman Nelson (The Surveyor), Myra Page (Moscow Yankee), John dos Passos (USA Trilogy), John Steinbeck (The Grapes of Wrath), Upton Sinclair (The Jungle), Ursula Le Guin (The Dispossessed), Emile Zola (Germinal), Cecilia Bobrovskaya (Twenty Years in Underground Russia), Steve Yarbrough (The Oxygen Man), Ousmane Sembene (God's Bits of Wood), Anna Seghers (The Seventh Cross), Albert Maltz (The Cross and the Arrow), Suzanne Collins (Hunger Games), Veronica Roth (Divergent).

God's Bits of Wood was written by Ousmane Sembene, the great African novelist and film director. His home of Senegal was a French colony when Sembene was drafted into the French army during WWII. After the war he returned to Senegal and took part in a long railroad strike against French authorities that began in 1947 and ended in 1948. God's Bits of Wood tells the exciting story of that strike.

This is what was said about one of these books:

"Stowing away on a ship, Sembene traveled back to France and worked first in an auto factory and then on the docks in Marseille, where he joined the French Communist Party and became a labor militant in the communist-led CGT union. His novel Black Docker is based on these experiences."

"One of the most satisfying aspects of God's Bits of Wood is the important role that women take on in resuscitating and leading the strike, reminiscent of the film Salt of the Earth. It really is a terrific novel."

Glossary

Capitalists compete by any means necessary. Much like smaller criminal gangs, different groups of capitalists battle one another to secure territory, resources, and exploitable labor–the basis of their profits.They have created the state as a mechanism to manage and protect this ruthless profit-driven system. Through laws, police, prisons, elections, the military, schools, the media, and other institutions, the bosses have built a dictatorship to keep themselves in power—and keep the working class out of power.

Fascism is a stage of late capitalism in crisis where the liberal democratic veil peels away to reveal a rotting dictatorship. The bosses use state terror to discipline their own class and enforce compliance by the working class–both essential conditions for waging global war. Fascism is marked by more direct and centralized rule, with intensified racism, sexism, and nationalism.

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalists, principally the multinational banks and oil companies (JPMorganChase, ExxonMobil). They're trying to build a multiracial, patriotic coalition to back U.S. imperialism and protect their far-flung profits. This is the wing that plays the drums of World War III.

The **Small Fascists** are mostly domestically oriented capitalists, spearheaded by the Koch, Mercer, DeVos, and Coors families, along with Richard Mellon Scaife, Harry and Lynde Bradley, John Olin, Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Rupert Murdoch and a cast of other billionaires. They want to cut taxes for short-term profits and are reluctant to invest in costly ground wars to defend the global U.S. empire. Their agenda includes a racist gutting of social services at home and a retreat from U.S. imperialist alliances, including NATO.

Build student-worker alliance for communism

Continued from page 8

pects of this struggle with the struggle against sharpening anti-Black fascist police terror. CHALLENGE is our most powerful organizing tool, weapon in the struggle, and spotlight exposing capitalist-led liberal misleadership. Only a mass PLP can lead the working class from the swamp of identity politics, liberalism, nationalism, and religion!

Students, workers, and soldiers UNITE

Year after year, generations of students around the world have shown tremendous courage fighting back in solidarity with their class sisters and brothers from Palestine, Sudan, and the DRC to immigrant workers to Black workers attacked by racist police terror. Today, masses of students yearn for "escalation," to sharpen the struggle against racism, sexism and imperialist genocide, and can sense the current crop of reformists, revisionists, and nationalist misleaders don't have a plan.

PLP fights to unite the student movement while rebuilding the international communist-led working class movement in basic industries, transit, and communications and shut the imperialist system down - and escalate with armed revolution for communism. A key task for communists includes organizing and recruiting in the bosses' military to "turn the guns around," and this discussion led to sharp questions we will continue on our campuses and in our areas of work. We ended the conference with new members joining and commitments from each area to write regularly for CHALLENGE. We have a world to win! And to all students, workers and soldiers: JOIN US!

Letter: From Minneapolis to Palestine, say their names

PL'ers at the say their name cementary. Fight for communism in honor of George Floyd, Shantel Davis, Alex Flores, Kimani Grey, Breonna Taylor, and too many names.

This year's American Public Health Association's annual meeting was in Minneapolis, the city that burned a police station over the murder of George Floyd. Progressive Labor Party members led rallies outside and inside the convention center to protest the APHA leadership's unwillingness to entertain a sharper statement against genocide (See page). This was a continuation of our fights against state violence that included a sharp position paper on police violence as a public health issue that passed in 2018 after three years of persistent struggle with APHA leaders. Of course they were glad to have such a position when George Floyd was killed in 2020 and this year we visited George Floyd Square. This is a true memorial to his murder and the murders of so many others at the hands of the police which impacts families and communities. Party members and friends saw revolutionary art in real life here. Murals, flower beds, poetry, a "Say Their Names" cemetery and over two blocks of names in the street leading up to the central display. A community "tourist interrupter" shared the history of the neighborhood which had been ignored by city services including trash collection and medical emergency vehicles. Later at the conference we learned of an inspiring 10 year struggle by tenants nearby in East Phillips to displace landlords and gain their own building. The reminder of the ceaseless murders by police in the U.S., the role of Israeli police training U.S. police and the ongoing genocide in Gaza sharpened our struggle against racism. At the conference we kept up the pace and distributed 900 APHA CHALLENGE fliers calling out the APHA for supporting genocide and met many public health workers also willing to join the fight. More work to do!

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Realizing that all the bosses' choices are bad

Al Jazeera, 11/6–As the reality of another Trump presidency set off anger and sorrow from many Democratic commentators, at the Dearborn gathering organized by American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), there was a sense of indifference – if not vindication. Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris had ignored the community's calls for reconsidering the unconditional US support for Israel. The vice president also continued to assert what she calls "Israel's right to defend itself" despite the brutal atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon…Unlike Trump, Harris did not visit Dearborn, the de-facto seat of Arab American political and financial power, during her campaign…"We had Harris endorsed by neoconservatives like Liz Cheney and Dick Cheney, and she's openly campaigning with them and talking about how great they are," [said] Dearborn councilman Mustapha Hammoud…Speaking under a Harris campaign sign last week, former President Bill Clinton claimed that Hamas "forces" Israel to kill Palestinian civilians and suggested that Zionism predates Islam…Bottom line, many Arab Americans say they already survived four years of Trump while many of their relatives in Palestine and Lebanon did not survive the Biden-Harris presidency.

Haitian bosses struggle to find an effective dictator

Reuters, 11/10–Haiti will name entrepreneur and former senate candidate Alix Didier Fils-Aime to replace Prime Minister Garry Conille, who was tapped for the role in May, according to a transitional presidential council draft resolution seen by Reuters. The shakeup is the latest blow to political stability in the country, which has been wracked with worsening violence…Promised international support still lags and nearby nations have deported Haitian migrants back to the country…

Didier Fils-Aime is the son of well-known Haitian activist, Alix Fils-Aime, who was jailed under the regime of dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Conille, who also briefly led the country over a decade ago, has been prime minister for about six months. He was appointed to the role in May by Haiti's transition council to return to the role as the Caribbean nation works to restore stability. The transition council, named in April, was tasked with choosing a prime minister and wielding certain presidential powers until conditions are considered secure enough for a new election…In recent weeks, Conille embarked on trips abroad to the United Arab Emirates and Kenya to seek security assistance…

As Ukrainian missiles fly over Russia, nukes are now in range

Foreign Affairs, 11/5–Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, it has put approximately 30 percent of its estimated 5,580 warheads in an untenably precarious position…the nuclear arsenals it has stored in its west—which are now within striking distance of Ukrainian missiles and drones and even Ukrainian troops—pose a dire risk…Ukraine has begun launching up to hundreds of drones daily at…Russian targets…Ukrainian drone assaults have already reached as far as Moscow…at least 14 Russian nuclear storage sites now fall within range of its drones…At least two of those sites are less than 100 miles from the Ukrainian border, well within striking range of the more damaging missiles Ukraine already possesses, and another five sites lie less than 200 miles from the border, close to or just beyond the range of the advanced Western-provided missiles that Ukraine is seeking permission to use against conventional targets in Russia…

Russian imperialists work to replace French in Africa

BBC, 11/11–Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered what he called "total support" for Africa, including in the struggle against terrorism and extremism. The speech was read out at a summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to his African counterparts. Several African governments have cut ties with traditional Western allies and are looking to Moscow for help in tackling frequent attacks by jihadists. During the summit, Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré said Russia was a more suitable international partner than the former colonial power, France.

It is a view shared by several of France's former colonies - and was reiterated by Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, who contrasted the Kremlin's "sincere" partnership to the "neo-colonial" relationship of Western powers…

PLP STUDENT CONFERENCE

BUILD STUDENT-WORKER ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNISM

New York, NY, November 9 — "This is the first organization I've been involved in that not only fights for revolution, but also directly organizes the working class to fight for it." This was one of the concluding observations of a Progressive Labor Party student comrade from California, after more than 40 students, faculty and workers gathered in Manhattan for PLP's 2024 Student Conference. Student and youth PL'ers stepped up and gave leadership organizing every aspect of this conference where multiracial working class unity was on full display.

Billions of workers today live in a dark night of sharpening fascist attacks, especially against migrant workers, Black workers, Muslim workers and women, and widening imperialist wars leading to all-out World War 3. However, with an attendance of mostly young, Black and immigrant workers and students and future communist international working class leaders, the future of class war for communist revolution is bright, and the theme of the conference is the reason: building the student-worker alliance.

History is a science: learning from the past

With an agenda discussed, planned and set by a new generation of PLP college student leaders, the political tone of the conference – "No war but class war: Students and workers unite!" — was set with a concise, punchy keynote speech from a graduate student based outside the U.S. This worker's internationalist speech underlined how liberal misleaders have now appropriated the term "fascism," and that Trump's election does not change PLP's task of defeating every variety of fascism with communist revolution, in every part of the world. Despite Trump's openly fascist rhetoric, liberal misleaders continue proving to be the main danger in diverting the fightback of the international working class into the arms of a different set of capitalists.

Defeating fascism means the PLP must organize and fight back on the campus and within basic industries for the mass leadership of the work-

Defeating fascism means the PLP must organize and fight back on the campus and within basic industries for the mass leadership of the working class. To illustrate this point a transit worker in New York City's MTA gave a work report.

Inspired by the progress of our transit comrades in building a base over years of work and making contacts with dozens of workers, attendees greeted the news that upcoming meetings and plans are in motion with applause.

Participants then met in breakout groups with student facilitators, and focused the main discussion on a past CHALLENGE article (7/19/24) summarizing lessons from PLP's fightback since the Vietnam War. The article's three main points were the necessities of: a) multiracial working class unity, b) building a base, and c) building the Party, PLP, because eradicating capitalism requires discipline, organization, and commitment. Each group saw vibrant and sharp discussions. During the report-back to the larger group concluding the morning session, several students gave examples on how learning from past struggles put their current struggles into context, and shared experiences, lessons, and questions.

'Class' struggle: Build the student-worker alliance, build PLP

Our afternoon reading and discussions connected the morning discussion to the rising fascism on college campuses, using a CHALLENGE article about mask bans led by liberal Democrat-led states (10/4/24) and a research article by Indigo Olivier connecting campuses to the U.S. imperialist war machine. Many prestigious colleges invite weapons manufacturers like Lockheed Martin to fund and collaborate with their science and math programs. This, in turn, allows them to recruit promising working class students by enticing them with Lockheed-funded research projects. Community college students, meanwhile, face aggressive, wall-to-wall military recruitment to cover the U.S. Army's worst recruiting crisis since the end of forced conscription – the "draft" - for the Vietnam War, in 1975.

Alongside another handout listing (just some) of the protest restrictions now placed on campuses from coast to coast, students discussed this student-to-imperialism pipeline amid the crackdowns against the pro-Palestine movement. With the rabid dog Israeli fascists serving as U.S. imperialism's most vital proxy to maintaining U.S. imperialist supremacy over the global oil trade, it's no wonder the U.S. ruling class is united in smashing solidarity with Palestine.

At the same time, this also reveals the inherent limits of the "Boycott, Divest, and Sanction" reform demands from groups like Students for Justice in Palestine. Several Black student leaders also commented on the reality of "transactional solidarity" between the identity politics-driven leadership of these various mostly segregated campus groups, as opposed to a real, working class-driven solidarity.

Discussions then focused on building a mass student-worker alliance on every campus and industry, and how through fightback and leading by example we can sharpen the anti-imperialist as-

Continued on page 7

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, November 22

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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